

# **Bits & Chips**

**of the Gateway Computer Club**

**VOLUME 17**

**1990**

**No. 01-07**

## **Gateway Computer Club**

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, Jan 19th - 7:00pm**

**Location:**

**Caseyville Township Building**

**1001 Bunkum**

**Fairview Heights, Illinois**



**For Directions - Call**

**Mike: (618) 345-2197 / James: (618) 624-3872 / Wally (618) 286-0215**

### **VISITORS**

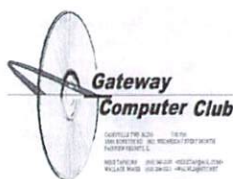
**Are ALWAYS welcome at our meetngs (3rd Wednesday of each month)**

**Next Board Meeting:**

**Wednesday, Feb. 2 - 6:00pm**

**Location:**

**Ryan's Steak House of Fairview Heights, IL**



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## **\* Message from the President**

*Happy Y2K from the Pres...and Happy New Year!*

I want to start the New Year off by wishing everyone in the club a Happy New Year! I hope everyone survived the Holidays and the Y2K scare. I also hope that everyone got all kinds of new toys to play with... Please bring them to the meeting and show-off your new gadgets and gizmos. Anyway, Happy New Year!!! and I'm sure this year will be a great year for the GCC...

*New Newsletter Editor!*

You may notice that the Newsletter looks a little different this month. Dave Epps has taken over as the Newsletter Editor and he has spent some time putting together a great issue. Please let Dave know what you think about the newsletter and send any hints / tips / articles of interest to Dave at [DWEpps@Intertek.Net](mailto:DWEpps@Intertek.Net). Dave was elected as the Newsletter Editor at our November Meeting.

*We're Losing Our Secretary!*



Wally Maier our esteemed Secretary has recently resigned as Secretary. It is truly a loss for the club. Wally was one of the most active and dedicated members we have ever had since I have been President and he will truly be missed. I'm hoping this is only a temporary resignation and that after he settles into his new marriage, Wally will be able to come back to some of our meetings. Please let him know that we will miss him...

**DEMO:** a HOW-TO guide for recording songs/cassettes using your computer!

## THE CLUB

The Gateway Computer Club (G.C.C.) is a non-profit organization of like-minded computer users. Membership fee is \$15.00 per year, payable on the anniversary of your membership. Members receive access to the club's public domain software library, educational programs, literature and the monthly newsletter Bits & Chips 2000.

Please direct all membership applications and questions to:

Gateway Computer Club  
c/o Mike Taphorn, President  
101 Sprign Glen  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Only public domain programs are kept in the G.C.C. public domain software library. Reproduction of copyrighted software is not promoted, nor is it condoned by the G.C.C. Such piracy will not be tolerated at club functions.

### In Memory

G.C.C. mourns the passing of  
Mr. Gerald Luewallen

Dave Epps  
Bill Jeffreys  
Ken Welker



### Club Officers

#### **President:**

Mike Taphorn  
(618)345-2197

#### **Vice President:**

James Tomlinson  
(618) 624-3872  
tomlinsj@apci.net

#### **Secretary:**

Wallace Maier  
(618)286-0215

#### **Treasurer:**

Donald Wold  
(618)632-1907  
donaw@intertek.net

#### **Membership Chairman:**

J.C. Spelce Jr.  
(618)624-8780  
Jspelce@apci.net

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Dave W. Epps  
(618)394-9718  
dwepps@intertek.net

## Bits & Chips

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
Editor, G.C.C. Bits & Chips  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

Contents of the Bits & Chips

2000 newsletter may be reprinted by other club newsletters, if proper credit is given to the author of printed material.

Submissions are due no later than the 5th of each month.

Editor's note: The Bits & Chips 2000 begins 2000 with a new editor. This newsletter shall now be a forum in which G.C.C. members may participate freely. Members may make submissions of reasonable length (not to exceed one 8.5x11 page) with the assurance that all will be included as appropriate.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Donald Wold, Treasurer

*Balance as of Dec 1, 1999: \$1173.95*

### **INCOME:**

50/50 Drawing:	\$10.00
Membership Renewal	\$15.00
CD Sales:	\$45.00
Total Income:	<u>\$70.00</u>
	\$1,243.95

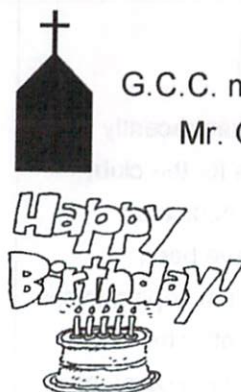
### **EXPENSES:**

Membership: \$34.40  
(stamps & envelopes):  
**Miscellaneous:**

Gift Chk \$50.00  
For Joanne Seaton)  
Blimpie: \$44.85  
(Christmas Party)

Total Expenses: \$129.25


Balance (Jan 1, 2000): \$1,114.70





# COMING in FEBRUARY

 Internet Bookmarks


 Tips and Tricks for  
Windows

Netscape

 Neat downloads!

Utilities

Games

 Exercise Tips for RSI  
injuries

## February's Demo

Internet Tips & Tricks

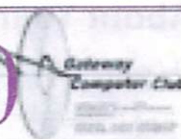
"Customizing Your Browser"

**Be sure to attend the February 16th meeting!**





# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 2

February 2000

## General Membership Meeting Information

*Attendance Low*

**Dave Epps**

*Editor*

GCC Officers are concerned about low attendance in general membership meetings. In an effort to increase awareness of the GCC meeting time, I've included a calendar for the year 2000 - highlighted on meeting dates. You are a member of an active, practical club. We've so many wonderful demos planned for the rest of the year . . . that's right, we've planned ahead! Please show your support and attend our meetings. By the same token, we'd appreciate it if past due members would pay their club dues. We ensure the dues money is used wisely in supporting club expenses.

### February Meeting Information


**Date:** Wednesday, February 16

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caseyville Township Building

1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Supporting GCC Meetings and Activities
- 2 About Your Club
- 2 February Birthdays 
- 3 The Fun Zone (Web Links, Humor Corner, Tips & Tricks)
- 4 When Does GCC Meet in 2000

## President's Message

**Mike Taphorn**

*GCC President*

Hello From Mike...

### GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

I don't have two different bits of information to give you, but the news I do have could be GOOD or BAD depending on your point of view. Anyway, I will not be at the February meeting (You get to pick if this is Good or Bad). I will be in Milwaukee the day of the meeting and I don't think I'll be home in time to make it to the meeting. Jim Tomlinson, our V.P., will take over for me and I'm sure he'll do a great job. Let me know if he does a better job than I do and maybe I'll nominate him for President next year...

### DEMO OF THE MONTH

If you read the flyer in the last newsletter, you already know this, but Dave Epps, our newly ordained Newsletter Editor is going to give a demonstration on as many hints and tips as he can fit into a reasonable amount of time. Dave has been saving up for this demo and I'm sure he'll have all kinds of good stuff to share with everyone. If you know any good hints or tips that you think would be useful for the other members, send them to Dave at [DWEpps@Intertek.Net](mailto:DWEpps@Intertek.Net)

### WE NEED A SECRETARY

I'm still hoping that Wally will come out of retirement to be our secretary, but in the meantime, we have to fill the position. Dave Epps and J.C. Spelce have been helping out with the note taking, but we really should have a full time board member. Please let Jim Tomlinson know at the next meeting if you or anyone you know might have an interest in the position. If we have more than one volunteer (It could happen) we'll hold a mini-election for the job.

**I won't see you at the meeting, but please go anyway!**

## About Your Club

### A Forum

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Members receive access to the club's public domain software library, educational programs, literature, and the monthly newsletter **Bits & Chips**.

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Treasurer: Donald Wold (618)632-1907 donaw@intertek.net	Membership Chairman: J.C. Spelce, Jr. (618)624-8780 jspelce@apci.net
Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### February Birthdays!



Happy Birthday to Gene Brandt - 2/17

### Treasurer's Report

**Donald Wold**

*GCC Treasurer*

Balance as of Jan 1, 2000 \$1,114.70

### INCOME

50/50 Drawing 4.00

Total Income: \$4.00 \$1,118.70

### EXPENSES

None Reported

Balance as of Feb. 1, 2000 \$1,118.70

### Bits & Chips 2000

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

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## HUMOR CORNER!

### Little Bit of Geography Humor

#### Kissimee

A man and his wife were driving their Recreational Vehicle across Florida and were nearing a town spelled Kissimmee. They noted the strange spelling and tried to figure how to pronounce it \_ KISS\_a\_me; kis\_A\_me; kis\_a\_ME

They grew more perplexed as they drove into the town. Since they were hungry, they pulled into a place to get something to eat. At the counter, the man said to the waitress: "My wife and I can't seem to be able to figure out

how to pronounce this place. Will you tell me where we are and say it very slowly so that I can understand."

The waitress looked at him and said: "Buuurrrgerrr Kiiiiinnng"

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IT'S ALL HOW YOU LOOK AT IT  
(from Friday Morning Jokes Mailing List)

Do you know how you can tell how long a missionary has been in "the field"?

The 1st year, she finds a fly in her water glass, and pours the whole thing out.

The 2nd year, she finds a fly in her water glass, picks it out, shrugs, and drinks the water.

The 3rd year, she finds a fly in her water glass, smiles, and says, "Oh good! Soup!"

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#### YOU HAVE MAIL



A ragged individual had been stranded for several months on a small desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One day, he noticed a bottle lying in the sand with a piece of paper in it. Rushing to the bottle, he pulled out the cork and with shaking hands withdrew the message.

"Due to lack of maintenance," he read, "we regretfully have found it necessary to cancel your e-mail account."

## Internet Links

A Customer's Heartfelt Experience at Jack's  
<http://www.cranial.com/hertes/jack.html>

Our Web Site (GCC)  
<http://www.signalhill.net/gcc/>

Movie Clips  
<http://www.metv.com>

Star Trek Mailing List  
[startrekker@startrekker.net](mailto:startrekker@startrekker.net)

56K Multimedia Heaven - Neon Sky  
<http://www.neonsky.com/>

Lives, the Biography Resource  
<http://members.home.net/klanxner/lives>

Cool Utility - Big Fix (free)  
<http://www.bigfix.com/>

## Health

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: What is it?  
<http://www.healthfinder.gov/text/docs/Doc0741.htm>



# 2000

## January

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30	31					

## February

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## March

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## April

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## May

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## June

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

## July

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August

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27	28	29	30	31		

## September

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## October

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## November

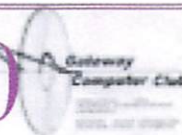
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## December

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					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 3

March 2000

## General Membership Meeting Information

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Dave Epps

*Editor*

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### March Meeting Information


**Date:** Wednesday, March 15

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caseyville Township Building  
1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights

**Demo:** Refill Your Ink Cartridges (Inkjet)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Supporting GCC Meetings and Activities
- 2 About Your Club
- 3 March Birthdays 
- 4 Fun Zone



## Message From the President

Mike Taphorn

*President*

Hello From The Pres ...

### GOOD NEWS REVIEW

**I**t seems that we had a very good turnout for February's meeting. I'm not sure if that means you all showed up because I was gone or if it was all related to other factors. I'll hope it was the weather or some other things and not the fact that I was in Milwaukee. Anyway, I was glad to hear that the meeting went well even if the demo was changed at the last minute.

### LAST MONTH'S DEMO MOVED TO APRIL

**L**ast month's demo was postponed until April because Dave Epps our Newsletter Editor and guest speaker had to re-schedule his therapy. So if you read the flyer in the January newsletter, and you were eagerly awaiting the demonstration on hints and tips, come to the April meeting. Rescheduling the demo is not all bad. It gives everyone time to think of a problem or tip that they know and E-Mail them to Dave at [DWEpps@Intertek.Net](mailto:DWEpps@Intertek.Net). In the meantime, check out [www.annoyances.org/win98](http://www.annoyances.org/win98) if you are having any problems with WINDOWS 98. Use "/win95"

if you are still using WINDOW 95





## About Your Club

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Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### March Birthdays!

Odie Farris 3/28



### President's Message - Continued

## MARCH DEMO = SAVING \$\$\$

This month's demo will show you how to save a lot of money. J.C. Spelce will demonstrate his time tested methods of re-filling ink cartridges. He showed the board members a kit at the last board meeting that cost \$40.00 but was equivalent to hundreds of dollars worth of new cartridges. Don't miss this demo...

## VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS

I'm not sure if anyone volunteered at the last meeting, but we'll have to get out the thumbscrews this month and look for a volunteer for the Secretary and Librarian positions. Actually these positions are not painful and I'll talk about them at the meeting. If you have any interest in filling one of our open positions, please, please let me know at the March meeting. You'll be loved by everyone and feel good about helping the club...

*See you at the meeting...*

### Bits & Chips 2000

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

This newsletter is a forum in which GCC members may participate freely. Articles are due by the 5th of each month.

### Treasurer's Report (Donald Wold, Treasurer)

Balance as of 1 Feb 2000 \$1118.70  
INCOME  
50/50 Drawing \$13.00  
Memb. Renewals \$45.00  
(Nochta, Maier, Germann)  
CD Sales  
GCC CD #3 \$15.00  
GCC Web CD #1 \$5.00  
Total Income: \$78  
No EXPENSES reported



## HUMOR CORNER!

Fun Zone!

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MICROSOFT'S NEW TV DINNER PRODUCT

### HOW MANY?

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How did you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the preacher said: 'Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer...'"

### UNIX HUMOR

NOTE :

% => user must run C- Shell (csh).

\$ => user must run Bourne-Shell (sh).

% who is my match?

No match.

% sleep with me

bad character

% got a light?

No match.

% "How would you rate Reagan's incompetence?"

Unmatched "

% "How would you rate Reagan's senility?"

Unmatched "

% 'thou shalt not commit adultery'

thou shalt not commit adultery: Command not found.

### YOU HAVE MAIL

A ragged individual had been stranded for several months on a small desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One day, he noticed a bottle lying in the sand with a piece of paper in it. Rushing to the bottle, he pulled out the cork and with shaking hands withdrew the message.

You must first remove the plastic cover. By doing so you agree to accept and honor Microsoft rights to all TV dinners.

You may not give anyone else a bite of your dinner (which would constitute an infringement of Microsoft's rights). You may, however, let others smell and look at your dinner and are encouraged to tell them how good it is.

If you have a PC microwave oven, insert the dinner into the oven. Set the oven using these keystrokes:

```
\mstv.dinn./08.5min@50%heat// Then enter:  
<ms//start.cook_dindin/yummy\|/yum~yum:-  
)gohot#cookme.
```

If you have a Mac oven, insert the dinner and press start. The oven will set itself and cook the dinner.

If you have a Unix oven, insert the dinner, enter the ingredients of the dinner (found on the package label), the weight of the dinner, and the desired level of cooking and press start. The oven will calculate the time and heat and cook the dinner exactly to your specification.

Be forewarned that Microsoft dinners may crash, in which case your oven must be restarted. This is a simple procedure.

Remove the dinner from the oven, enter:  
<ms.nodamn.good/tryagain\again/again.damn.

This process may have to be repeated. Try unplugging the microwave and then doing a cold reboot.

If this doesn't work, call your hardware vendor.

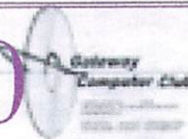
Many users have reported that the dinner tray is far too big, larger than the dinner itself, having many useless compartments, most of which are empty. These are for future menu items. If the tray is too large to fit in your oven you will need to upgrade your equipment.

Dinners are only available from registered outlets, and only the chicken variety is currently produced. If you want another variety, call MicrosoftHelp and they will explain that you really don't want another variety. Microsoft Chicken is all you need.





# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 4

April 2000 EDITOR'S NOTE: All Submissions due by 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month.

## General Membership Meeting Information

*Attendance Healthy!*

**Dave Epps**

*Editor*

Attendance for the past two meetings has been outstanding! I've received a couple of individual requests for another calendar insert, so please look for one attached to this newsletter. You are a member of an active, practical club. We've so many wonderful demos planned for the rest of the year . . . that's right, we've planned ahead! We've also considered holding "focus groups" to address computing questions from our membership on a more detailed level.

### April Meeting Information

**Date:** Wednesday, April 19

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caseyville Township Building  
1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Height

APRIL DEMO: Customizing Your Desktop

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	<b>President's Message &amp; Meeting Information</b>
2	<b>About Your Club / March Demo Review</b>
3	<b>Fun Zone!</b>
4	<b>Meeting Calendar</b>



## Message From the President

**Mike Taphorn**

*President*

Hello From The Pres ...

### APRIL DEMO

Dave Epps' demo on Computer Tips and Tricks was postponed from February until April. I'm sure everyone has been anxiously waiting to learn at least one new trick. If you are having any problems, or if you would like to know how to do a certain task on your computer, bring your questions to the meeting and Dave and the rest of the members will try to help you out...

### LAST MONTH'S DEMO

J.C. Spelce gave a great demonstration on how to refill ink-jet print cartridges and save a lot of money in the process. If anyone has a success story, please bring it up at the meeting and J.C. will know his demo was helpful. I recently saw a pre-packaged refill kit at K-Mart that was useful for the older style print cartridges. If you check around, I'm sure you'll find one that works for your printer...

### WE STILL NEED A SECRETARY AND A LIBRARIAN

Well... We asked for volunteers at last month's meeting and we didn't receive a single one. If you can read and write and sit in a chair, please volunteer. Actually the sitting in a chair requirement is optional. Please help the club by sharing your talents. The current board members are holding their own, but it would be much nicer if we had a full board. Of course if you can do more than the three previously mentioned requirements, the club will be that much better...

### PHOTO ID NIGHT

We kicked around the idea of making photo ID's for the club. I think it would help everyone learn to know the rest of the members and it would be a fun project to do at one of our future meetings. Let me know what you think...

See you at the meeting...



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Secretary: VACANT	LIBRARIAN: VACANT
Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### TREASURER's REPORT

Balance as of March 1,2000 \$1,196.70

### INCOME

<b>50/50 Drawing</b>	\$14.00
<b>Membership</b>	
1 New member	\$15.00
5 Renewals	\$75.00
<b>CD Sales</b>	
Zip Discs	\$40.00
CD # 2	\$15.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$159.00</b>

### EXPENSES

Pstg	\$66.00
(Newsletters)	
Ink Refill Kit	\$42.84
(Newsletters)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$108.84</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$50.16</b>
<b>Balance as of April 1, 2000</b>	<b>\$1,246.86</b>

### President's Message - Continued

## VACANT OFFICER POSITIONS

I'm not sure if anyone volunteered at the last meeting, but we'll have to get out the thumbscrews this month and look for a volunteer for **Secretary** and **Librarian** positions. Actually these positions are not painful and I'll talk about them at the meeting. If you have any interest in filling one of our open positions, please, please let me know at the March meeting. You'll be loved by everyone and feel good about helping the club...

See you at the meeting...

## MARCH DEMO = SAVING \$\$\$

### A Review

**M**arch's demo featured J.C. Spelce in the spotlight! He explained how to save hundreds of dollars a year by refilling your old inkjet ink cartridges. Although this process only adds one to two more uses for your old cartridge, it sure beats spending so much for new cartridges that aren't even sold full!

There are several companies on the Internet which sell the ink refill kits. I purchased on kit from "Re-InkKing" for a total (black refill kit and a color refill kit) of about \$30.00. This certainly wasn't bad, but the drawback is the delivery method - you had to empty a bag of ink into the ink cartridge. There was no way to see how much you were putting in, or anything. In contrast, the kit the club bought uses clear syringes - you control how much you put in; you monitor the ink level in the syringe. J.C. brought instructions for the refill process to the meeting. You can view the instructions online at

<http://www.oddparts.com/ink/hp51645.htm>



## HUMOR CORNER!

Fun Zone!

IS IT TRUE? (source: Friday Morning Jokes Email, 4/7/00)

On their way home from attending an Ash Wednesday service, little Donny asked his mother, "Is it true, Mommy, that we are made of dust like the minister said tonight?"

"Yes, darling," his mother answered.

"And is it true that we go back to dust again when we die?"

"Yes, dear," his mother replied.

"Well, Mommy, when I said my prayers last night and looked under the bed, I saw someone who is either coming or going!"

HIGH SPEED (Source: Friday Morning Jokes email)



Two men sitting side by side in a 747 plane started to talk. One explained he had never flown before.

They left the airport in New York City headed for Los Angeles, California.

They landed in Chicago, whereupon a little red truck pulled up and refueled the plane.

They again landed to refuel in Denver. A little red truck pulled up to the plane and refueled it.

As they were about to land at their destination the veteran flier pointed out to the novice what great time they had made.

The novice said, "Yes we made good time, but that little red truck wasn't exactly doing bad either."

THE COMEBACK

A young couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the husband sarcastically asked, "Are they relatives of yours?"

"Yes," his wife replied. "I married into the family."

Editor's Note: most humor on this page comes from:  
<http://www.patsjokes.com/computer/>

EVERYONE'S AGAINST ME

A speeding motorist was caught by radar from a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket.

"How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked.

The police officer pointed somberly toward the sky.

"You mean," asked the motorist, "that even He is against me?"

THE UNIX "NICE" COMMAND

The UNIX system has a command, "nice", which allows a user to voluntarily reduce the priority of his process, in order to be

nice to the other users.

Nobody ever used it.

7 SOFTWARE COMPANIES ON PROBATION

New York, NJ, Nov. 11 -- People for the Ethical Treatment of Software (PETS) announced today that seven more software companies have been added to the group's "watch list" of companies that regularly practice software testing. "There is no need for software to be mistreated in this way so that companies like these can market new products," said Ken Granola, spokesperson for PETS. "Alternative methods of testing these products are available." According to PETS, these companies force software to undergo lengthy and arduous tests, often without rest for hours or days at a time. Employees are assigned to "break" the software by any means necessary, and inside sources report that they often joke about "torturing" the software. "It's no joke," said Granola. "Innocent programs, from the day they are compiled, are cooped up in tiny rooms and 'crashed' for hours on end. They spend their whole lives on dirty, ill-maintained computers, and are unceremoniously deleted when they're not needed anymore." Granola said the software is kept in unsanitary conditions and is infested with bugs. "We know alternatives to this horror exist," he said, citing industry giant Microsoft Corp. as a company that has become extremely successful without resorting to software testing. PETS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of software programs and promoting alternatives to software testing.



A good laugh at technology

<http://www.patsjokes.com/computer/>

Your computer as a radio receiver

<http://www.live365.com>

Think YOU'RE in the HOTSEAT?? Check this site out!

<http://www.theelectricchair.com>

Good reference for State educational material

<http://www.50states.com>

Free Time on Your Hands? Here's an opportunity to volunteer in cyberspace

<http://www.dmoz.com>

Hedging your Bets

<http://www.thewizardofodds.com>

Warner Brothers Web Site

<http://www.entertaindom.com>



# GCC MEETINGS 2000

January

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December

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# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 5

May 2000

## Editorial Note

*Newsletter Changes for May*

Dave Epps

Editor

You will notice this month's newsletter is a little lighter in content than previous editions. I apologize for the shorter version this month, but it was necessary for me to dedicate time to my master's degree course and I'm going on vacation for a week, as well. There will be additional content in the June version to make up for it. Thanks for reading the newsletter and for regularly attending general membership meetings. The club is truly becoming a forum for computer users of all levels of experience!

### March Meeting Information

**Date:** Wednesday, May 17

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caseyville Township Building

1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights

**Demo:** Using Ebay Online Auctioning

**June Demo:** Photo ID cards (tentative)



## Message From the President

Mike Taphorn

President

Hello From The Pres ...

### MAY-BE DEMO

I'm writing this on April 28th (before our May Board meeting). So therefore I'm guessing what the May demo will entail. I'm hoping to have Marty Bartoulis help out with an E-Bay demo. If Marty is not available, we can get organized and have the photo I.D. night we talked about at the April meeting. Anyway, we may not know for sure what will be demonstrated, but I'm sure it will be great.

### FREE E-MAIL / FAX / VOICE MAIL

I'm not sure how many of you have used the FAX portion of your FAX modems, but life got a little easier when one of the guys I work with took me to a site named [www.Ureach.com](http://www.Ureach.com). Ureach is a site where you get 30 Meg of free E-Mail space and you can also send and receive telephone service, voice mails and FAXES. I set up an account today and sent a Fax to Gary Hollowich (Our newest member) immediately after I was registered. Take a look, it's really nice...

### MORE FREE STUFF

If any of you get TIME magazine, I'm sure you've read the TIME Digital magazine that they include every once in a while... If you do not receive TIME, look for the MAY 2000 edition of the Time Digital magazine for a ton of ideas on how to get free goods and services, that are worth getting, via the internet. Here are a few of the recommended sites: Enews.com offers trial magazines. Pets.com offers free stuff for shoppers. NoWonder.com offers free Tech Support. Freebies.about.com offers all kinds of free stuff. The magazine lists a ton of free items from goods to internet services. I'll bring it with me to the meeting so you can copy any of the links that look interesting. If you have a FAX machine or you set up an online FAX account, let me know and I'll FAX the articles to you...

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 President's Word and Editor Note

2 About Your Club

May Birthdays



4. Refill Tips

## About Your Club

### A Forum

The Gateway Computer Club (GCC) is a non-profit forum of like-minded computer users. Annual membership dues are \$15, payable to the Treasurer on your membership anniversary.

Members receive access to the club's public domain software library, educational programs, literature, and the monthly newsletter **Bits & Chips**.

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Gateway Computer Club  
c/o Mike Taphorn, President  
101 Spring Glen  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Only public domain programs are kept in the GCC public domain software library. Reproduction of copyrighted software is not promoted, nor is it condoned by GCC. Such piracy will not be tolerated at GCC functions.

### The Officers

President: Mike Taphorn (618)345-2197	Vice President: James Tomlinson (618) 624-3872 tomlinsj@apci.net
Treasurer: Donald Wold (618)632-1907 donaw@intertek.net	Membership Chairman: J.C. Spelce, Jr. (618)624-8780 jspelce@apci.net
Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### May Birthdays!

Everett Truttman 5/29

### President's Message - Continued

#### MARCH DEMO = SAVING \$\$\$

We've had some requests since the ink refill demo in March for J.C.'s ink refill notes and references. This month's newsletter has a great article with tips on how to perform this valuable task!

#### GOOD SITES

I'm sure a lot of our members have favorite sites. Look at your bookmarks and let me know where you like to go... I'll list the best ones in the newsletter next month...

*See you at the meeting...*

### Bits & Chips 2000

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

This newsletter is a forum in which GCC members may participate freely. Articles are due by the 1<sup>ST</sup> Thursday of each month.

### Treasurer's Report (Donald Wold, Treasurer)

Balance as of Apr 1, 2000	\$1246.86
INCOME	
50/50 Drawing	\$13.00
Memb. Renewals	\$70.00
CD Sales	
GCC CD #3	\$15.00
Total Income:	\$98.00
EXPENSES	
Postage for Newsletters	\$66.00
BALANCE AS OF 1MAY2000	\$1278.86



## Refill Tips



### REFILLING THE FIRST TIME

The first time you refill a cartridge, don't get discouraged if you get some ink on your hands. After your first time you will quickly learn to avoid this problem. If you do get some ink on yourself, simply use a mild bleach and water to remove it. This will clean the ink off your hands. Wash with soap and water when you are finished with the bleach.

### DON'T LET YOUR CARTRIDGE DRY OUT!

The number one refilling problem is a dried out cartridge. If your cartridge is left empty for more than 1 hour, the ink will dry and clog the micro holes at the outlet of the print head. When refilled, your cartridge may produce a sub-standard print quality such as streaks or dull output. If your cartridge has been empty for a few days and not properly stored, we suggest that you throw the cartridge away, buy a new one along with a refill kit so you can refill it as soon as it gets empty. Another way is to place your empty cartridge into a ziplock bag with a damp cloth to keep the cartridge moist until you can refill it.

The best way to keep your printer running is to have a backup cartridge. Keep the backups filled. When the one in the printer goes empty, put in the backup. Then refill the empty as soon as possible. Store in a zip lock bag with a damp cloth until you can get to it. If you do a lot of printing, you can "top off" your cartridge. By knowing how many pages your full cartridge can print gives you a mental signal to "top off" when you reach the 3/4 empty point. Some of the cartridges are "see thru" so you can fill them when they are not quite empty.

### BURNED UP CARTRIDGES

Bubble jet cartridges have electrical resistors that control the current to each outlet jet. These resistors must stay fixed in terms of their resistance or ohms. When they get over heated the resistance changes. After many over heatings the resistance value may not be in the acceptable range and this will present itself as low quality output, either color distortion or weak printing or both.

The ink in the cartridge keeps these resistors cool and prevents over heating, like oil in an engine. However, when the cartridge goes empty and the printer continues to try to print, over heating occurs. If you continue to try and print, each time the cartridge will suffer damage and eventually burn out. This is why cartridges have a limited life in terms of how many times they can be refilled. Each time there is a no ink situation and the resistors overheat the life of the cartridge is diminished.

The remedy here of course is a new cartridge. To extend life, refill your cartridge at the first sign of low ink or do the "top off" procedure above.

### PRESSURE EQUALIZATION

When you shoot ink into a cartridge it upsets the internal pressures in the cartridge. When the cartridge is full, let it set on some newspapers or in a plastic container for 15 minutes or more before putting it back into your printer. This will give the cartridge time to stabilize internally. The excess ink will drain off and the chambers inside will reach equilibrium. Wipe off the print head with a paper towel or cloth and reinstall or put into a zip lock bag for storage. Note, some cartridges, like the HP51626A/HP51629A require about an hour to stabilize.

When you are refilling an HP51626A/HP51629A, it will leak out the head quite heavily at first, until it starts to fill up. That's because there is bladder in the cartridge that has to become pressurized before it will stop leaking. This is not a problem with the Print-Rite Bottom-Fill Systems.

## **CLOGGED CARTRIDGES**

Empty cartridges that are unwrapped and not installed in the printer will dry out and may become clogged. Never let a cartridge dry out completely, even if it is out of ink. If you don't have any ink, wrap it in a moist towel and seal in a ziplock bag for storage. If you have ink, refill it and seal it in a plastic bag or put it in the printer's spare slot, if it has one. If you have a cartridge that you have tried everything on, don't throw it away yet. There is one more thing to try if you have the patience.

Put the totally clogged cartridge in a shallow dish or saucer. Pour boiling water into the saucer so the ink jets are covered. Let it set for 2 minutes or until ink begins flowing out of it. Do this again if it is still clogged. The hot water will eventually destroy the cartridge if you do it too many times. Be careful not to burn yourself.

## **Trouble shooting, helpful hints and changing color.**

Cartridge leaks:

- The cartridge has lost pressure or was not properly pressurized. Follow the repressurizing procedure in method 2.
- Stand the cartridge upside down until you are ready to pressurize. Cartridge will not leak as long as it stands upside down.

Cartridge will not print at all.

- The Cartridge has an air lock near the print head. Using the injector with the small hose, inject a little air into the top vent hole keeping the cartridge in the upright position. Do this on a paper towel to catch any ink coming out of the print head.

Cartridge prints in streaks or unevenly.

- Some of the microscopic nozzle holes are clogged with dried ink. Soak the print head in a 50/50 mixture of ammonia and water for 5 to 15 minutes, then using the syringe and hose again, push air into the top vent hole. Again do this on a paper towel to catch ink coming out of the print head. If after repeated attempts at trying to clear the print head without proper results, you should assume the cartridge is defective and discard it.

## **Important precautions to consider:**

- Do not puncture the top center hole as this will destroy the check valve inside and make the cartridge useless.
- The cartridge will leak if it undergoes pressure changes during air line flights. Remove cartridge from printer and store in a zip lock bag while traveling.



### **Changing color:**

- Changing color in the HI-Capacity cartridge is easy. After pushing the white ball in the top corner into the cartridge, simply inject water instead of ink, shake and pour out the fill hole. Do this several times until the water comes out fairly clear, and inject the new color.

### **Some more neat info.**

The older DeskJet cartridge #(51608) was much easier to refill than the new HI-Cap cartridge. #(51626A/29A) which, as you can see from reading the above, is a little more involved. The older cartridge had a vent hole – top center -and you merely injected the ink through this hole saturating an internal sponge. This cartridge used less ink, and was discontinued by HP. However the new cartridge #(51633) which is used in the HP portable printer will also fit your DeskJet. Now you can re-fill much easier. Color changes in the sponge type cartridge is very difficult.

See separate re-filling instruction for the #(51633) cartridge.

### **TroubleShooting**

- Leaking:  
Cartridge is overfilled. Set it on a paper towel until the leaking stops.
- No printing:  
Reinstall print cartridge or clean copper contacts with plain water and dry with a soft tissue.
- Prints in streaks:  
Clogged, dirty, or damaged print head. Soak the cartridge in just enough simmering water to cover the print head for about 5 min. Add about 50% ammonia for tough cartridges and always perform the cleaning procedure from the front of the printer.



# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 6



## Editorial Note

*Busy Month*

**Dave Epps**

*Editor*

Last month was relaxing and busy and stressful, all wrapped up together. Thankfully, I got the newsletter out before we went on vacation. My father's been sick for the past few years with cancer and he was in the final stages of the disease when we returned. With class beginning again, I'm looking forward to my next vacation! (Too bad my next vacation is probably a year away!) Anyway, here's wishing you a safe and happy summer month.

## March Meeting Information

**Date:** Wednesday, June 21

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caseyville Township Building

1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights

**Demo:** Computer Books

(bring one to share, if you like – how to, intro to computers, etc.)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 President's Word and Editor Note

2 About Your Club

June Birthdays



3 Fun Zone

## Message From the President

**Mike Taphorn**

*President*

Hello From The Pres ...

## MAY DEMO WAS GREAT

Marty Bartoulis did a great job explaining how easy it is to put items on E-Bay. Marty has sold a lot of items on E-Bay and he has a great way to use free services like Honesty.Com to build the HTML code that is required to make the item description interesting to look at. I'm hoping that we may have a future demo where Marty can demonstrate the Honesty.Com site and how to build the HTML code from scratch. The demo was so good that I decided to go ahead and put my Palm V on the auction block and see how much I can get for it. If you see a Palm V for sale in the next week or so, bid on it. I need the money... Thanks for a great demo Marty...

## JUNE DEMO = COMPUTER BASICS

We've been hearing a lot of suggestions that we go over some of the basics of computing again. What we are going to try to do is use the computer basics book that Don Wold purchased as a guide. We're going to go through one section at each meeting until we're finished with the book. If you are a beginner, you should plan on attending the meetings and bring a friend that wants to learn about computers. If you know the basics and you haven't stopped reading yet, right now you're thinking "Great! I already know that stuff. It's going to be boring blah blah blah..." Don't worry, if the basic stuff has enough interest, we're going to split the group into two parts and have dueling demo's. I would also like to have some of the more experienced people around to keep the information flowing... We've already scheduled an advanced demo for July with Dave Epps our editor. Let Dave know what you would like to see. We were planning on a "How to use Access to do fun stuff" demo, but we've had a few Access demo's in the past and we're open for suggestions.

## GOOD SITES

Send me your favorite sites via E-Mail to [Mtaphorn@QuixNet.Net](mailto:Mtaphorn@QuixNet.Net). I'm making a list of free Internet provider sites and other fun sites... Let me know where you like to go...



## About Your Club

*A Forum*

The Gateway Computer Club (GCC) is a non-profit forum of like-minded computer users. Annual membership dues are \$15, payable to the Treasurer on your membership anniversary.

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Treasurer: Donald Wold (618)632-1907 donaw@intertek.net	Membership Chairman: J.C. Spelce, Jr. (618)624-8780 jspelce@apci.net
Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### May Birthdays!

*The editor apologizes for neglecting to include Keith Henerfauth on the May "Birthday" list. We must update our member birthdays in the membership database.*

### June Birthdays!

Kathrin Jethro  
Paul J. Walsh

*We will request member birthdates at June's meeting to correct our list.*

## Treasurer's Report

Donald Wold, Treasurer

Balance as of May 1, 2000

\$1,278.86

### INCOME

**50/50 Drawing \$9.00**

**New Member \$15.00**

**Memb. Renewals \$30.00**

### CD Sales

GCC CDs 2, 3 \$30.00

Total Income: \$84.00

### EXPENSES

Refund Dues Overpmt (M.Bush)

\$66.00

BALANCE AS OF June 1, 2000 \$1,352.86

### Bits & Chips 2000

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

This newsletter is a forum in which GCC members may participate freely. Articles are due the **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of each month.

### Trivia Question: Why is extreme deference to someone in authority "kowtowing?"

If your etymological instincts suggest that kowtow might have been a Chinese word for towing away an illegally parked cow, don't trust them. You're looking at an Anglicization – about as Chinese as Chop Suey. The word did originate in Chinese, but as kotow. The custom behind this word startled Europeans who began to visit China at the end of the Middle Ages. The visitors were used to bowing to people of noble rank, but the Chinese went them one better, kneeling on the ground with their foreheads actually touching the ground. The Europeans wisely observed this local custom and brought back the word, or at least a bastardized form of it, to describe pronounced deference. Today we have earthier expressions in English describing such behavior to a teacher or boss, but propriety stays my fingers from typing them.

## HUMOR CORNER!

(Source <http://www.patsjokes.com/computer>)

### Information Highway Blues

My baby's got my 486.  
 My cellular phone's on the blink.  
 My fax's gone off to fax heaven,  
 And Pay For View stinks.  
 I got the blues, I got the Information Highway bluuuuues.  
 I got the bluuuuues, I got the Information Highway blues.  
 I lost my account on the Internet.  
 My email's been revoked.  
 My modem's stuck at 300 baud,  
 And my terminal just blinks.  
 I got the blues, I got the Information Highway bluuuuues .  
 I got the bluuuuues, I got the Information Highway blues.  
 My head spins from Virtual Reality.  
 I don't have Video on demand.  
 I can't read my Personal Newspaper,  
 And Shop At Home has kinks.  
 I missed the on-ramp, to the Information Highway bluuuuues.  
 I missed the onnnn-ramp, to the Information Highway blues.  
 Jack "Blues" Jung, Toronto, September 1994

### Gates Meets God

So God brings Clinton, Yeltsin and Bill Gates to his office and says "Men, I've decided to bring an end to the world this Thursday -- I want you to go back and tell your people."

Upon his return, Clinton holds a press conference and says "People of America, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that all these years we've been saying 'one nation under God' we've been right -- there is a God. The bad news is he is destroying the world on Thursday."

Yeltsin makes an announcement to the Russian people and say "Brave comrades, I have bad news and bad news. The first bad news is that we've been wrong all these years -- there really is a God. The other bad news is he is going to destroy the world on Thursday."

Bill Gates calls a board meeting of Microsoft. "I have good news and good news!" he tells them. "The first good news is that God called a meeting of the three people he thinks are the most important in the world and I was one of them. The other good news is that OS/2 stops shipping on Thursday."

### Daily Computer Prayer

Our Hard Drive  
 Which art internal  
 Volume C by name;  
 Thy code be clean,  
 Thy fonts be seen  
 On screen as they are on paper.  
 Give us this day our documents,  
 And lead us not into fragmentation  
 But deliver us our data.  
 For thine is the SCSI,  
 And the EISA, and the NuBus,  
 Forever and Ever, Amen.

## Top Ten Ways the Internet Could Get Worse

10. Rigorous user screening process abolished by America On-Line.
9. "MAKE MONEY FAST" posts protected by 1st amendment, declare internet lawyers Canter & Siegel.
8. Home shopping "network".
7. Netrek corporate sponsorships. Out: Orion, Pollux, Klingus. In: Planet Bud, Toyota Prime, Intelworld.
6. Sun internet servers replaced with pentiums.
5. Dan Quayle appointed head of "bandwidth expansion tiger team".
4. Free netcom account with purchase of big mac.
3. Gameboy web browsers.
2. Tipper Gore cancelbot unleashed onto the net.

### AND THE NUMBER ONE WAY THE INTERNET CAN GET WORSE:

1. Two words: "Microsoft Network"

### The Prom

You know someone has been computing too long when ...

You overhear your them talking about "high school", "his first time", and the "prom" and.....

Uou realize he's talking about "his first computer", the Apple IIe, and the "EPROM"

### Computer Acronyms (part I)

IBM

I Blame Microsoft

Idiots Buy Me

Idiots Building Machines

I'll Buy Macintoshes (next time...)

It Bit Me

It Built Microsoft

It's Better Manually

I've Been Mislead

I've Been Mugged





# BITS & CHIPS 2000



Volume 2000, Issue 7



## Editorial Note

Dave Epps

Editor

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Independence Day this year! I went to watch fireworks with visions of database objects and entities dancing in my head. . . What, do you say, is he talking about? Well, come to this month's meeting and find out. In the process you will discover basic features of Microsoft Access. Access is very flexible, offering wizards for the novice (like any other MS product) and coding features for the advanced user. Stay tuned. . .

### March Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, July 19

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Caseyville Township Building

1001 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights

Demo: **The Basic Features of Microsoft Access**

Coming next month: **Chapter 2, Computer Basics Book**

## Message From the President

Mike Taphorn

President

Hello From The Pres ...

## JUNE DEMO ONLY THE BEGINNING

Last month Don Wold and I explained the basic components of the computer. Don bought the book "Computer Friendly" and we went through the first chapter. The demo was well received and everyone got an "A" on the short quiz that followed demo. I think that everyone liked the demo and that we should continue having more demos using Don's book. This month we had previously scheduled Dave Epps to do a Microsoft Access demo so we'll continue the basic computer demos starting with the August meeting. I think that we may have to start having two demonstrations at each meeting so we can make it interesting for the new people and for the more advanced members. Please let me know what you think. I would like to thank Don for finding the book and for sharing his time to talk about it at the meetings. I talked to Don and he said that he would be willing to continue doing the demonstrations for us as long as everyone wants to see more... Thanks, Don!

## JULY DEMO = MICROSOFT ACCESS

As I said in the previous paragraph, Dave Epps is preparing a demonstration of Microsoft Access. Access is one of the most powerful and least often used parts of the Microsoft software suite. It is a database program that lets you easily keep track of any number of different items. We keep the clubs CD-ROM collection list organized using Access. Please make sure your at the July meeting, I'm sure you won't want to miss this demo.

## NEWSLETTER BLUES

Dave Epps is going to be going to class for a while and he is unsure if he will be able to produce a newsletter for the club for the next few months. If we have any publishing people or people that would like to learn how to put together a newsletter, please let me know at the meeting...

See you at the meeting.....

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 President's Word and Editor Note

2 About Your Club



Birthdays – holding for updated member b-day information. Happy B-Day to all July babies!

3 Fun Zone



## About Your Club

### A Forum

The Gateway Computer Club (GCC) is a non-profit forum of like-minded computer users. Annual membership dues are \$15, payable to the Treasurer on your membership anniversary.

Members receive access to the club's public domain software library, educational programs, literature, and the monthly newsletter **Bits & Chips**.

Please direct all membership applications and questions to:

Gateway Computer Club  
c/o Mike Taphorn, President  
101 Spring Glen  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Only public domain programs are kept in the GCC public domain software library. Reproduction of copyrighted software is not promoted, nor is it condoned by GCC. Such piracy will not be tolerated at GCC functions.

### The Officers

President: Mike Taphorn (618)345-2197	Vice President: James Tomlinson (618) 624-3872 tomlinjsj@apci.net
Treasurer: Donald Wold (618)632-1907 donaw@intertek.net	Membership Chairman: J.C. Spelce, Jr. (618)624-8780 jspelce@apci.net
Newsletter Editor: Dave Epps (618) 394-9718 dwepps@intertek.net	

### This month's hot sites...

Name	Description	URL
Store Runner.com	Find products on Internet; negotiate your price	<a href="http://www.storerunner.com">www.storerunner.com</a>
Jelly Bellies.com	Web home of Jelly Belly jelly beans They hand out free samples to limited number of visitors daily, so visit early!	<a href="http://www.jellybelly.com">www.jellybelly.com</a>
Epicurious.com	Offers culinary hints, menus, and other assistance for the kitchen artist	<a href="http://www.epicurious.com">www.epicurious.com</a>

Let us know if you see a web site you think others would like to know about!

## Treasurer's Report

Donald Wold, Treasurer

Balance as of June 1, 2000 \$1,352.86

### INCOME

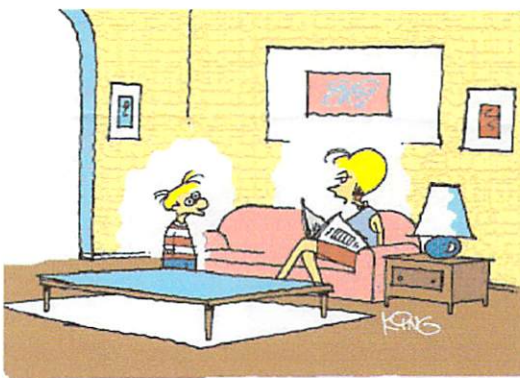
50/50 Drawing: \$12.00

Member Renewals: 45.00

Total Income: \$57.00

EXPENSES: None reported

Balance as of July 1, 2000: \$1,409.86



"No, you weren't downloaded.  
You were born."

### Bits & Chips 2000

Please direct all submissions to:

Dave W. Epps  
7319 Carr Drive  
Belleville, IL 62223

This newsletter is a forum in which GCC members may participate freely. Articles are due the **1<sup>ST</sup> Thursday** of each month.

